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Message Text

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14
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 L-03 SAJ-01 IO-13 CPR-01 ST-01 /065 W
---------- 080308
R 020942Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO USMISSION USBERLIN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3768
AMEMBASSY BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 20304

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/CE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV PFOR MILI GE WB UR UK FR
SUBJECT: FREIGHT SHIPMENTS TO EMBASSY BERLIN

REFS: (A) USBER 2463 (NOTAL); (B)
STATE 112231 (1975)

1. MISSION BERLIN IN REF (A) POINTED UP POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS IN USE OF CD-PLATED TRUCK FROM EMBASSY BONN FOR TRANSPORTING EQUIPMENT FROM BONN TO EMBASSY BERLIN, PARTICULARLY IF GDR VISA FOR GERMAN-NATIONAL DRIVER WERE TO CONTAIN OBJECTIONABLE LANGUAGE SUCH AS "BERLIN HAUPSTADT DER DDR." WE AGREE THAT MATTER REQUIRES SPECIAL ATTENTION AND PRESENT THE FACTS FOR THE RECORD.

2. EMBASSY BERLIN REQUESTED ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE IN TRANSPORTING A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF FURNITURE FROM WAREHOUSE STORAGE IN BONN TO BERLIN. EMBASSY BONN HAS BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE AN EMBASSY TRUCK FOR TRANSPORTING THE FURNITURE (INCIDENTALLY AT A SAVING OF SOME 4,000 DM AS COMPARED TO COST OF COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT). EMBASSY TRUCK CARRIES FRG DIPLOMATIC LICENSE, BUT IS OF COURSE DRIVEN BY GERMAN
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LOCAL EMPLOYEES, WHO CANNOT USE ACCESS ROUTE WITH

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FLAG ORDERS.

3. GDR VISAS WERE REQUESTED BY THE EMBASSY FROM THE GDR PERMANENT REPRESENTATION IN BONN FOR TWO GERMAN LOCAL EMPLOYEES. VISAS WERE DULY ISSUED AND WERE FREE OF ANY UNACCEPTABLE LANGUAGE; THEY WERE VALID SIMPLY FOR TRAVEL "TO THE GDR."

4. CONCERNING ROUTES, DRIVERS WERE SPECIFICALLY INSTRUCTED NOT TO USE THE HELMSTEDT-BERLIN AUTOBAHN OR TO ENTER WEST BERLIN. THREE TRIPS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED WITHOUT INCIDENT. SUBSEQUENTLY, HOWEVER, WE HAVE LEARNED THAT DRIVERS OF FIRST THREE SHIPMENTS DID NOT FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS AND USED HELMSTEDT-BERLIN AUTOBAHN AFTER PASSING THROUGH GDR BORDER CONTROLS AT MARIENBORN. THEY PASSED AROUND WEST BERLIN ON THE BERLIN RING AND ENTERED EAST BERLIN FROM THE GDR.

5. ONLY ONE MORE SHIPMENT IS PLANNED, AND THE DRIVER HAS BEEN STRONGLY INSTRUCTED TO AVOID THE HELMSTEDT AUTOBAHN.

6. WHILE APPEARANCE OF A VEHICLE WITH A CD PLATE IDENTIFIABLE AS AN AMERICAN EMBASSY VEHICLE ON THE ACCESS ROUTE IS UNDESIRABLE, AS USBER POINTED OUT THE TRIPARTITE TRAVEL GUIDELINES ARE AIMED MORE AT THE PERSON THAN AT THE VEHICLE. MOREOVER, WE DOUBT THAT THE APPEARANCE OF THE EMBASSY TRUCK ON THE ACCESS ROUTES UNDER GDR CONTROLS IN THESE INSTANCES IS CAUSE FOR CONCERN IN TERMS OF PRECEDENTS. US PERSONNEL FROM THE EMBASSY WHO ARE USING THE ACCESS ROUTE UNDER FLAG ORDERS CUSTOMARILY PICK UP TEMPORARY USAREUR GREEN PLATES AT HELMSTEDT.
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